

# Annual Report 2018

---

## Contents

---

1	Introduction.....	1
2	Report of 2018.....	2
2.1	Programme.....	2
2.2	Community Activities and Support.....	3
2.3	Donations made by the Club .....	3
2.4	Publicity .....	5
2.5	Membership Report .....	5
2.6	Finance Report.....	5
2.7	Flower and Produce Show .....	6
3	Plans for 2019.....	7
4	Points for Discussion .....	8

## 1 *Introduction*

De Beauvoir Gardeners continues to serve the communities of De Beauvoir, Dalston, London Fields, Islington and beyond with monthly meetings, outings and activities.

Plant Stall at Flower & Produce Show



## 2 Report of 2018

### 2.1 Programme

#### *Monthly Meetings*

We continued with our programme of eleven monthly meetings including

- 7 speakers and 1 workshop (see box)
- The Walkabout where the club views the gardens of neighbours in the area.
- The picnic was held jointly with Islington Gardeners at Olden Gardens – thanks to **Islington Gardeners** for their hospitality
- AGM

Thanks to **Avril Broadley, Stephen King, Maria Pinschof and Alison Benjamin** for organising speakers and to **Cec Darker** for organising the Walkabout again. Thanks again to **Avril Broadly at Broadbase** for designing the posters throughout the year.

Non-members frequently attend meeting and pay £4 on the door. Sixty guests attended meeting last year.

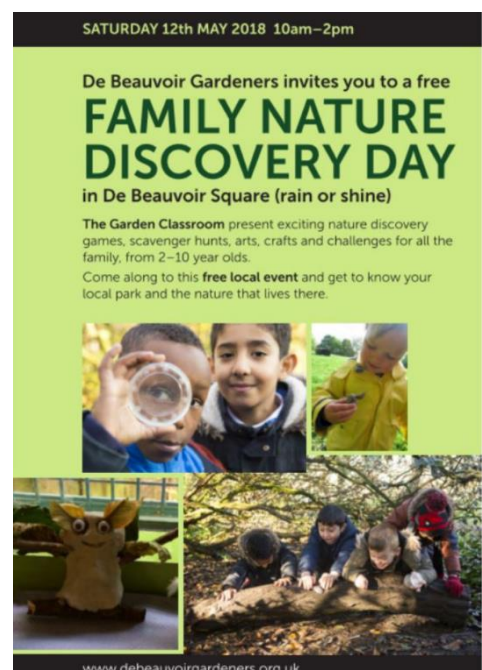
#### *Trips and Outings*

The coach trip this year took place in July and was to Frith Old Farmhouse, near Ashford a three quarter acre very informal NGS garden created over the last 40 years from rough grass with altered habitat areas. <https://www.ngs.org.uk/find-a-garden/garden/21584/> and to Godinton House privately owned but open to the public: 12 acres 19th c. garden with walled garden, rose garden, herbaceous borders, lily pond, Italian garden, wild garden. <http://godintonhouse.co.uk/gardens/> Thank you to **Kirsty Norman** for organising this.

The Club also took a trip to south London to 24 Grove Park Camberwell where Clive has created an amazing exotic garden. If you were unable to come, try to visit next year when he is open with the NGS <https://www.ngs.org.uk/find-a-garden/garden/22791/> Thank you to **Dee Carter** for organising this.

#### Topics 2018

- Learning in natural environments
- De Beauvoir Estate Allotments – one year on
- Beekeeping in De Beauvoir
- Permaculture
- The London Water for Wildlife Project
- The Transformation of Arlington Square
- Care of Indoor plants
- Different street trees in our part of London and how we can help protect and increase their numbers
- Make a willow wreath out of found objects



## 2.2 Community Activities and Support

### *Mentoring*

The Club continues to offer a service of mentoring gardeners who would like someone to visit and advise them.

### *Networking*

The Club is now part of Sustainablehackney.org.uk. **Irene Slegt** is representing De Beauvoir Gardeners as a member of the Green Infrastructure Working Group. The Working Group has discussed at Hackney's Green Infrastructure Plan and improvements to green corridors that will connect the gardens, parks and rivers/canals to benefit biodiversity. The group also met with Sam Parry, Hackney Parks Development Officer to discuss the plans for the Kingsland road.

### *Activities*

The Club held a Family Nature Day in De Beauvoir Square with support from The Garden Classroom. There were many activities to help children and adult learn about nature. These include treasure hunts, leaf whapping, flower crowns and many more. It was free and open to all families in the area and was well attended. The feedback was very positive. Thanks to **Matt Duffy** for organising this.

### *Planting of the Month*

Planting of the month has been *slow* this year. Please look at the website and nominate your neighbours Photos of all the winning gardens are on the website <https://debeauvoirgardeners.wordpress.com/planting-of-the-month/>

As spring approaches please nominate interesting plantings you see locally having first gained the owner's permission.

### *Plant Sale*

The annual plant sale not only raises money, but it is an opportunity to help local gardeners with plants and advice. It is always popular and this year raised £174.30.

## 2.3 Donations made by the Club

From the proceeds of the Flower & Produce Show and other fund-raising, the Club has donated £1375 to local gardening initiatives.

St Mary's Secret Garden	£500.00
The Garden Classroom	£425.00
Gideon Corby - Wildlife Gardeners	£225.00
St Joseph's Hospice Garden	£225.00

This included proceeds of the raffle which were £678.10 were divided equally among the following The Garden Classroom, Wildlife Gardeners and St Joseph's Hospice. Details of these are below.

- De Beauvoir Town's Living Waterway Gideon Corby is leading on the part of the local section Regent's



Canal Living Waterway project he says ...We are in the process of transforming the Regents Canal into a green corridor between the Kingsland Road and Whitmore Road bridges. Working with the permission of the Canal and River Trust, we have already planted some shallow areas with yellow flag iris and other native aquatic and marginal plant species to create rich habitat for nature. Additionally, we are working with the Woodland Trust to replicate woodland edge habitat by planting native hedging along the towpath. The [Crowdfunder](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/regents-canal-living-waterway-1)

site <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/regents-canal-living-waterway-1>

explains more including a video. There is an article on the Benyon Estate website that gives the background: <https://thebenyonestate.com/news/2018/de-beauvoir-town-living-waterway-part1>



- The Garden Classroom <https://www.thegardenclassroom.org.uk/>

Shortlisted for 'Best New Charity' at the Charity Times Awards 2017, the Garden Classroom, based at Newington Green, provides urban children and adults with transformative outdoor experiences devised to encourage active lifestyles, promote self-discovery, inspire growth and stimulate respect for nature. They work with pre-schoolers, schools and the community.



- St Joseph's Hospice Garden <https://www.stjh.org.uk/>

St Joseph's Hospice first opened in 1905 and since then has been caring for and supporting people affected by serious illness to improve the quality of life for people with life-limiting conditions and help them live life to the full, to the very end. Supporting families and carers is also an important part of what they do.

They have a garden which is used by patients, staff and guests and the

funds donated go to support the garden.



- St Mary's Secret Garden <http://www.stmaryssecretgarden.org.uk/>

St. Mary's Secret Garden is a beautiful and accessible community garden with a difference in Hackney, London. For over 25 years it has offered a safe space where people with support needs and the local community can get hands-on experience of gardening, gain a sense of inclusion and receive the benefits of horticulture and other ecotherapy activities. This helps those in need combat isolation, develop valuable employment skills, gain qualifications and contribute

to a greener, healthier, happier community.



## 2.4 Publicity

The website <http://debeauvoirgardeners.org.uk/> continues to be a popular source of information as does our tweets and we continue to receive enquiries via our email address. A very special thanks to **Avril Broadley** for maintaining the website, tweeting and doing all of our beautiful posters as well as the Dog Show!!

Twitter handle: @DBGardeners Please, if you have a Twitter account, follow us and re-tweet our messages. It is a great help!

## 2.5 Membership Report

In 2018 we had 77 memberships (couples counted as 2 members). This is an increase of 10 members on last year. Forty-six members (60%) are concessionary memberships and five are honorary members who have historically paid no dues.

## 2.6 Finance Report

Below are the accounts for 2018. The Club continues to be financially solvent. Income is comes about equally from membership and the Flower and Produce Show. Meetings are the main expense. The room rental for each meeting is £105 and speakers' fees are about £100. Many speakers then use this money to support their own gardening project or donate to their charitable endeavour. Thank you to our treasurer **Richard Turnbull**.

### **De Beauvoir Gardeners**

#### **2018 Income and Expenditure Accounts**

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Membership	£1,080.00	£995.00
Flower Show	£2,714.75	£2,725.90
Plant Sale	£174.30	£143.00
Visitors	£242.80	£165.00
Coach Trip	£686.00	£1,125.00
Donations	£0.00	£11.00
RBS Interest	£2.64	£2.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,900.49</b>	<b>£5,167.38</b>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Crypt Rental	£840.00	£783.00

RHS Affiliation	£110.00	£105.00
Speakers	£821.00	£712.50
Flower Show Expenses	£892.93	£1,011.43
Party/Meeting Refreshments	£86.00	£185.78
Coach Trip	£740.00	£989.00
Equipment Purchases	£0.00	£0.00
Website	£23.98	£0.00
Donations	£1,645.00	£924.00
Misc. Stationery etc.	£0.00	£0.00
Misc. Projects	£126.32	£137.37
Front Gardens Scheme	£0.00	£25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,285.23</b>	<b>£4,873.08</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>-£384.74</b>	<b>£294.30</b>

Balance in RBS Account  
at 31 December 2018

**£5,980.27**

## 2.7 Flower and Produce Show



The Show is the key event of the year and is very popular with the community. It is also the Club's major fund-raising activity making £1,821.82 in profit this year. Best in Show was won by a Frida Kahlo cake (right). The Dog Show (below) continues to be popular. This year Richard Arnold, of Good Morning Britain, was the judge. Thank you to **Nancy Korman** for organising the Show and to all those who ran or helped



out on a stall. Over recent years, entries to the competition have decreased, in particular from children. We would welcome ideas on how to encourage children to enter the produce, cookery and crafts categories. To the right is a photo of the Best in Show.



### *3 Plans for 2019*

#### *Programme*

'The committee in waiting has made plans for

2 April - **Tuesday 8pm** - St Peter de Beauvoir Crypt - talk and workshop on herbs by Nat Cady of Hackney Herbals- practical advice on growing, propagation and varieties; demonstration (bring a pot)

8 May 2019 **Wednesday 6. 30 pm**- visit to Middle Temple Garden, off Fleet Street EC4- talk and tour by Head Gardener Kate Jenrick- on 341, 76, 4 bus routes and Temple tube

6 June **Thursday: time, meeting and route tbc**- Walkabout led by Cec Darker

2 July **Tuesday 6.30pm or 7pm till 9 pm** Summer picnic, St Mary's Secret Garden, Pearson Street, E2 (behind Geffrye Museum)- community garden focussing on special needs- propagated plants for sale

They seek suggestions from members at the AGM as to future events and the direction of de Beauvoir Gardeners.'

#### *Flower and Produce Show*

The new committee will decide on the Show when they meet.

#### *Outings and Activities*

Club members may participate in Islington Gardeners coach trips at member's prices. Does De Beauvoir Gardeners organise want their own coach trips?

#### *Donations*

The Club donates regularly to Dalston Eastern Curve, St Mary's Secret Garden and St Joseph's Hospice Garden but welcomes other suggestions.

### *Committee Membership*

We are very pleased that members **Sophie Beauchamp, Avril Broadley, Judith Parker and Irene Slegt** have volunteered to serve on the Organising Committee. They will stand for election at the AGM. The old committee will be standing down with the exception of Nancy Turnbull who will remain on the committee for a transition period. The new committee will discuss their plans with the membership at the AGM. If anyone else would like to join the Committee please email the Club.

Thanks to the retiring committee members who have served for many years:

**Dee Carter**

**Stephen King**

**Nancy Korman**

**Maria Pinschhof**

### *4 Points for Discussion*

- Election of new Committee
- Change to the constitution to allow the committee to co-opt members
- Ideas for the new committee
- Survey of members
- Volunteers